



## NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## AG KING ANNOUNCES CONVICTION FOR MISUSE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT DATA

(MONTGOMERY)—A former employee of the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles pleaded guilty to misusing confidential law enforcement information, just as her case was about to be tried this morning in Elmore County District Court.

Stacey M. Bell, 31, admitted that she accessed the LETS (Law Enforcement Tactical System) of computer data, and distributed information for a purpose other than law enforcement or criminal justice. She was sentenced to six months imprisonment, which was suspended, ordered to serve 12 months of probation and to perform 25 hours of community service at the Elmore County Humane Shelter.

On December 29, 2006, Bell used a state computer to access privileged law enforcement information about her boyfriend's former girlfriend, and illegally provided the information to her boyfriend about the victim's location. After the victim was contacted by the boyfriend as a result of the illegally distributed information, she reported the matter to the Alabama Criminal Justice Information Center, which maintains the LETS database. Bell was subsequently terminated from her position as an administrative assistant at the Alabama Board of Pardons and Paroles.

"The LETS system is an invaluable tool for law enforcement, and the information it contains is protected by law," said Attorney General King. "Access to this data is privileged and confidential, and it is a crime to use LETS for any purpose other than a legitimate law enforcement or criminal justice purpose. To maintain the honor and integrity of this vital data, it is essential that those who abuse the system are held to account for their violation."

The particular crime to which Bell pleaded guilty is a portion of the Alabama Computer Crime Act, Section 13A-8-102(c) of the Code of Alabama, which states that a willfull, knowing and unauthorized disclosure or use of computer data is an offense against intellectual property.

The case was investigated by Agent Robert D. Stuart of the Criminal Justice Information Center and prosecuted by Deputy Attorney General Joseph Fitzpatrick of Attorney General King's Public Corruption and White Collar Crime Division.

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